



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
October 05, 2022
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Andrew Cascudo, and Greg Picuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

Chairman Penny noted for the record that the following two additional grant applications are to be added under Section V, subsection B: “*Elect Mae Flexer,*” *Mae Flexer* and “*Lisa Marotta 4 Senate,*” *Lisa Marotta*.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 2022. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1.

2. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2022. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1.

3. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 28, 2022*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 28, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Brandi provided the following brief updates. We will have two new staff attorneys join the Compliance Unit this Friday. Interviews for the enforcement unit staff attorney position are ongoing. Staff remain diligent about the agency’s budget. So far, we remain on target for the fiscal year, which began July 1.

Looking ahead to the 2023 legislative session, which is a long session, we will be developing our legislative proposals and budget request. We will likely have some repeat bills as well as some new items for next session.

Judge Stevens just announced his decision in the contested primary race in the 127th House District. Staff will be working with the Secretary of the State's office on this new court-ordered primary. What is less clear from the court's decision is any grant funds that may be available to both Brown and Hennessy camps.

IV. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

Executive session was not convened.

V. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

A. New Applications

1. *"DuPont for the 64th," Christopher R. DuPont*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"DuPont for the 64th," Christopher R. DuPont*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *"Q Williams 2022," Quentin Williams*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Q Williams 2022," Quentin Williams*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

B. Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant

1. *"Alex In 22," Alexander F. Burns*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Alex In 22," Alexander F. Burns*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *“Lopes 2022,” Rick Lopes*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Lopes 2022,” Rick Lopes*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *“Rosario 22,” Christopher Rosario*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Rosario 22,” Christopher Rosario*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *“Jill Barry 2022,” Jill Barry*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Jill Barry 2022,” Jill Barry*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *“Elect Mae Flexer,” Mae Flexer*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Elect Mae Flexer,” Mae Flexer*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. *“Lisa Marotta 4 Senate,” Lisa Marotta*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *“Lisa Marotta 4 Senate,” Lisa Marotta*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Hampton Registrars of Voters

File No. 2022-003

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-003. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-003. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Hampton Registrars of Voters
File No. 2022-004B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-004B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-004B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda F. Czaplinski, Oxford
File No. 2022-005
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-005. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2022-005. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VII. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 09:54 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Cascudo, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Shannon Clark Kief, Geetha

Natarajan, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Lindsay Leung, Joshua Foley, Stephanie Fish, Scott Branfuhr, Ronald Perry, Paul Brady, Renata Rydzewski, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:29 A.M.

Returning to public session, the Commission took the following action:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated October 05, 2022 and requested that three (3) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to two (2) complaint Files No. 2022-047 and 2022-048 as well as one (1) Commission initiated investigation, 2022-050. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Daniel Dunn, Hamden
File No. 2021-163
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel. He recommended that the Commission adopt the Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2021-163.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2021-163. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Natt, Easton
File No. 2021-196
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter was continued.

VIII. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-231 and 1-200(6)(A) and 1-210(b)(2)
(Discussion of Personnel Matters)

Consideration of Personnel Matter

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch at 10:33 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-231 and 1-200(6)(A) and 1-210(b)(2) to discuss personnel matters.

IX. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

Returning to public session at 10:38 A.M., no action was taken on the matters discussed in Executive Session.


X. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch at 10:39 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueur
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 19th day of October, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is October 13, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. via Webex.